

Mount Rocky Methodist Church
Intersection of Chrome Road (LR 15007)
and Chrome-New London Road (LR 15008)
Mount Rocky (Elk Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1210

HABS,
PA,
15-MTROC,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1210

MOUNT ROCKY METHODIST CHURCH

Location: The building (now ruinous) was located at the intersection of Chrome Road (LR 15007) and Chrome - New London Road (LR 15008), Mount Rocky (Elk Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Statement of Significance: This 19th century Methodist meetinghouse exhibits unusual construction for this area. It was built of squared logs notched into upright corner posts.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The land was purchased in 1829. An account written in 1885 gives 1831 as the date of erection.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Thomas and Elizabeth Wilson sold 96 perches in 1829 to Richard Mahan, et al., trustees, to build a Methodist meetinghouse. The title was still apparently invested in the trustees last elected before the building collapsed.
4. Alterations and additions: The meetinghouse probably did not change until after World War I when it had a large doorway cut into it and machinery stored inside. In the 1920s the condition of the building began to deteriorate badly. At the time the site was visited in 1975 only stone foundations and some boards remained.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. Jeffersonian, West Chester, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1869:

"Mount Rocky.-- A protracted meeting has been held in the Mt. Rocky M. E. Church, Elk township, during the past three weeks, and great interest is being manifested on the subject of religion by many people in that vicinity. The meetings have been conducted by Rev. Mr. Wood. The house has been crowded to its utmost capacity, and many are unable to obtain admittance. A larger church is greatly needed, and, we learn, the building of an addition to the present house is contemplated. The meetings will be continued during this week."

2. Daily Local News, West Chester, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1885:

"A Church Repaired.-- Mt. Rocky M. E. Church has recently been renovated. Its interior new dress of paint, kalsomine, paper and altar carpet gives it a fresh and attractive appearance. A little

carpenter work and a coat of paint would make it as good as new. This is one of the oldest church buildings in the lower part of Chester County, having been erected in 1831."

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Copy of one old photograph taken by Douglas E. Brinton circa 1899, original in Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania (see HABS photocopy).

2. Bibliography:

Clipping and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, under the heading: "Elk Township: Churches--Methodist."

Wills and deeds: Chester County Court House, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This early 19th century Methodist meeting-house was built of squared logs notched into upright corner posts, an unusual construction method for the area.
2. Condition of fabric: All that remains of the building are the stone foundations, some squared logs on the northwest corner, and part of an upright post.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The church was three bays wide and was one story with a loft.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish: Squared logs notched into upright corner posts.
4. Chimneys: The structure had a central chimney for a stove.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Photographs taken circa 1899 shows a two-paneled door with a three-light transom above, located in the west bay of the south facade.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There were two windows on the south and two on the north. A photograph taken circa 1899 shows the southern windows to have been four-over-four-light double-hung wooden sash.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The structure had a steeply pitched gable roof

with wooden shingles.

- b. Cornice and eaves: The structure appears, from the circa 1899 photograph, to have had a simple board cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: One room and a loft.
- 2. Stairways: None.
- 3. Flooring: Floors were wood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls were plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: There were no interior doors.
- 6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Lighting: There was none.
 - b. Heating: The building was heated by a stove.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: Church faced south on the edge of the road. The foundations are now located in woods.
- 2. Enclosures: A graveyard with surrounding iron fence remains behind and to the east of the site of the church ruin.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
Curator
Chester County Historical
Society
May 1959
and
Marion Morton
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of cooperative survey of 100 Chester County buildings conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Chester County Historical Society between 1958 and 1962. This was the first large-scale project undertaken after the reinstitution of HABS in 1957, and it established the pattern of cooperation with state and local preservation groups which has characterized the HABS program in recent years. Written data was prepared by Bart Anderson, Curator of the Chester County Historical Society, with the assistance of James Sorber and others. HABS hired local professional photographer Ned Goode to take the documentary photographs. The written material was edited and expanded in 1975 by Marion Morton working under contract with HABS.